SECOND REPORT

FROM

HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS for inquiring into the UNIONS of PAROCHIAL BENEFICES in *Ireland*.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

WE, the undersigned Commissioners, constituted and appointed for inquiring into the Unions of Parishes in *Ireland*, under and in pursuance of Your Majesty's Commission, bearing date at *Westminster*, the fifth day of July, in the first year of Your Majesty's reign, whereby we, whose hands and seals are hereunto annexed, and the other Commissioners therein named, are commanded and empowered to "inquire into the state of the several Parochial Benefices in the respective Dioceses in *Ireland*, with a view to ascertain how far the same consist of Separate or United Parishes; and to report, in the case of Unions, the authority under which such Unions have been effected, and the state thereof; the Annual Value of the several Parishes so united; the contiguity of such Parishes to each other, and of the Churches or Chapels within the same; and the possibility or fitness of dissolving such Unions; and to examine and report how far the Salaries required by law have, in each case, been paid to the several Curates serving within the said Parishes or Unions; and to certify to Your Majesty, from time to time, under the hands and seals of any three or more of the said Commissioners, their several Proceedings as the same should be completed," do most humbly beg leave to represent to Your Majesty, that, in obedience to Your Majesty's commands therein contained, we, the said Commissioners, and the others therein named, proceeded forthwith on the said inquiry; and, on the 18th April 1831, made a Report to Your Majesty, recommending, in the Analytical Digest thereunto annexed, in various instances the dissolution of several of the Unions of Benefices as then existing within the Province of Armagh, and humbly suggesting for Your Majesty's gracious consideration various other matters for the improvement and better regulation of Ecclesiastical Benefices, consisting of Unions of Parishes in that Province, observing, however, that, in order to give effect to our recommendations, legislative enactments would, in many instances, be requisite.

And we would beg leave now humbly to state to Your Majesty, that, in recommending the dissolution of particular Unions, specified in the Schedules to the said Report annexed, and the erecting the Parishes composing such Unions into separate and distinct Benefices, we proceeded on the assumption that, in many cases, the incomes of several of the component Benefices or Parishes would continue to be of about the same amount in value as they were

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at the time of framing our Report, and that the annual Incomes of such Benefices as composed those Unions, when severed, as would not be of sufficient value singly and independently to support resident Incumbents, would be increased by funds provided for the purpose.

In further execution of these objects, Your Majesty's Commissioners intended to proceed, without delay, to extend the like inquiries and considerations into the state of the Unions of Benefices in the remaining three Provinces in *Ireland*, for which purpose they had collected sufficient materials, having obtained from the respective Diocesans returns of all particulars relating to the Unions in their several Dioceses. But the Two Houses of Parliament having, with Your Majesty's sanction, appointed Committees to investigate the subject of Tithes in *Ireland*, and certain legislative measures having been afterwards founded on the recommendations of these Committees, which have materially affected the amount of the Incomes of many of the Benefices composing these Unions, and ulterior changes in respect of Tithes in *Ireland* being in contemplation; we, Your Majesty's Commissioners, have thought it more advisable to suspend the consideration of the matters referred to in the said Commission of Inquiry until the final result of the contemplated measures shall have been made known.

In addition to the measures already adopted by Parliament in relation to the collection of Tithes in *Ireland*, we are informed, that a Bill has been introduced into The House of Commons for the abolition of Tithes, and the substitution of a Land Tax in lieu thereof. The effect of this Bill, if passed into a law, will be such as that Your Majesty's Commissioners may not be able, consistently with the Instructions contained in Your Majesty's Commission, and with the principles on which they have hitherto acted, to recommend the dissolution of Unions of Benefices, with the certainty that their recommendations would not require material revision and alteration when the Bill above referred to shall have become law; more especially as many of the recommendations already made in the Digest annexed to our former Report on the subject, had reference to the local advantages or disadvantages which might result to particular Benefices, from the locality of the lands from whence the Tithes were to issue, and their contiguity to one Parish or another. We therefore humbly request Your Majesty's gracious consideration of these several matters and suggestions, and that Your Majesty's Commissioners may be permitted to suspend the prosecution of their Inquiries into the subjects expressed in Your Majesty's Commission, until a final settlement shall have been made of the Tithe question, as they will thereby be the better enabled to make a full, correct and satisfactory Report to Your Majesty on the subject.

All which is most humbly submitted to Your Majesty's most gracious consideration.

JOHN G. ARMAGH. (L. S.)
DOWNSHIRE. (L. S.)
R^D. DOWN & CONNOR. (L. S.)
JOHN CLOYNE. (L. S.)
JOHN RADCLIFF. (L. S.)

Dublin, 16 April 1834.

Entered on the Minutes.

John C. Erck,
Secretary.

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BENEFICES, IRELAND.

SECOND REPORT from His Majesty's Commissioners for inquiring into the Unions of Parochial Benefices in *Ireland*.

(*Lord Viscount Howick.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
24 *June* 1834.

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